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The Honourable  
Vincent G. Kerrio  
Minister of Natural Resources

Statement to  
The Standing Committee  
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Ministry Estimates

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Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio  
Minister

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MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ... IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT THE ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE 1986/87 FISCAL YEAR.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I HAVE HAD SINCE BECOMING MINISTER TO PRESENT ESTIMATES AND TO GIVE A STATE-OF-THE-UNION REPORT ON MY MINISTRY.

I WILL TRY TO KEEP MY OPENING REMARKS TODAY AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS. BUT WE HAVE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND IN THE PAST 17 MONTHS AND I HAVE A LOT OF INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH YOU.

WISE MANAGEMENT OF THE VAST NATURAL BOUNTY OF THIS PROVINCE IS WHAT THIS MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT. THROUGH INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, WE STRIVE TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USES OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF GOOD. THAT INCLUDES CONSIDERING THE IMPACT ON THE WORLD OF OUR GRANDCHILDREN AND THEIR GRANDCHILDREN.

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I DOUBT THERE IS A SINGLE ONTARIAN WHO THINKS WE SHOULD UTILIZE OUR RESOURCES WITHOUT GIVING THOUGHT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. NOR SHOULD WE BE AFRAID TO USE THOSE VALUABLE RESOURCES. OUR FORESTS, LAKES, FISH AND WILDLIFE PROVIDE THE ECONOMIC BASE FOR MANY COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO. WITH CAREFUL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, WE CAN -- AND DO -- ACCOMMODATE THE SOMETIMES COMPETING DEMANDS OF OUR RESOURCE USERS.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THERE IS NOT ALWAYS UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT ON EXACTLY HOW WE SHOULD CARRY OUT THE PRACTICALITIES OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. THAT IS WHY, MORE THAN EVER, MY MINISTRY IS PUTTING ITS PRACTICES AND PROPOSALS UNDER REVIEW BY OUTSIDE EXPERTS -- AND MAKING PUBLIC THEIR FINDINGS.

THAT IS WHY, MORE THAN EVER, MY MINISTRY IS ACTIVELY SEEKING OUT THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC -- IN PUBLIC MEETINGS, OPEN HOUSES AND HEARINGS.

THAT IS WHY, MORE THAN EVER, MY MINISTRY IS STRIVING TO HEIGHTEN AWARENESS ABOUT RESOURCE ISSUES.



AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE PERSONALLY SPENT MANY DAYS TRAVELLING AROUND THE PROVINCE, LISTENING TO PEOPLE AND HEARING THEIR CONCERNS. I HAVE BEEN ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES. I HAVE BEEN MEETING STAFF IN THE FIELD, TALKING WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, AND SEEING FIRST-HAND HOW RESOURCE-RELATED ISSUES ARE HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO.

IF I HAD TO PICK FIVE BROAD THEMES OR AREAS IN WHICH THIS MINISTRY HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES SINCE THE SUMMER OF '85, THEY WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING: OPENNESS AND ACCESSIBILITY, NORTHERN OUTREACH, FAIRNESS AND RESPONSIVENESS.

ALL FIVE ARE PRIORITIES OF THIS GOVERNMENT. THEY RELATE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND WHO PAY FOR THEM -- THE TAXPAYERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO EACH ONE OF THESE THEMES, AND EXPLAIN HOW THEY HAVE APPLIED TO OUR WORK AT MNR.





## OPENNESS AND ACCESSIBILITY

THIS IS A SPECIAL PRIORITY OF MINE. IF WE EXPECT TO GET FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC ON WHAT WE ARE DOING, IF WE EXPECT TO EARN THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE, THEN WE MUST SEE THAT THEY HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO MAKE INFORMED COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

FROM THE TWO STREAMS, KNOWLEDGEABLE PUBLIC OPINION, AND ADVICE FROM A PROFESSIONAL AND DEDICATED STAFF, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON COMPLEX, AND OFTEN CONTROVERSIAL, ISSUES.

WE HAVE TAKEN SOME SPECIFIC AND FAR-REACHING STEPS TO OPEN UP THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TO THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF FOREST MANAGEMENT.

A LANDMARK STEP WAS THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT EXPERT TO REVIEW THE MINISTRY'S FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. WE WERE PLEASED TO GET SOMEONE OF THE CALIBRE OF DEAN GORDON BASKERVILLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW. HE WAS GIVEN ABLE ASSISTANCE BY DR. A.J. KAYLL, DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AT LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY IN THUNDER BAY.



I RELEASED DEAN BASKERVILLE'S COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO THE PUBLIC SEPTEMBER 4. HIS THOUGHTS ON IMPROVING FORESTRY PRACTICES ARE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THIS PROVINCE.

I'M SURE WE WILL BE DISCUSSING DEAN BASKERVILLE'S REPORT THOROUGHLY DURING THIS DEBATE. JUST LET ME SAY AT THIS POINT THAT THE VERY FACT HE WAS BROUGHT IN TO DO THIS EVALUATION INDICATES NOT ONLY OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WHEREVER WE CAN, BUT ALSO OUR DETERMINATION TO PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH ABOUT OPEN GOVERNMENT.

RATHER THAN PRESCRIBING SOME SPECIFIC "FIXES", DEAN BASKERVILLE IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AREAS OF CONCERN AND CHALLENGED THE MINISTRY TO COME UP WITH SOME SOLUTIONS. HE TOLD REPORTERS IN THUNDER BAY -- AND I QUOTE -- "THE FUNDAMENTAL NEED IS FOR THE MINISTRY TO EXAMINE AND REFINE WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A SOUND APPROACH."

WE ARE STARTING ON FIRM GROUND -- I THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT.



WITH FEEDBACK FROM KEY FORESTRY STAFF AT ALL LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE MINISTRY, MY DEPUTY MINISTER PREPARED A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE REPORT. THAT ACTION PLAN WAS PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATURE OCTOBER 27. SOME OF THE INITIATIVES DEALT WITH IN THE ACTION PLAN WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY WHEN WE RECEIVED THE BASKERVILLE REPORT; OTHERS WERE INSPIRED BY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT.

IN ALL, THERE ARE 16 PARTS TO THE ACTION PLAN. AND AS I SAID IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME, I BELIEVE THESE INITIATIVES WILL CARRY FOREST MANAGEMENT IN ONTARIO INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

AGAIN, WE ARE MAKING THE BEST USE WE CAN OF EXPERTISE WITHIN THE MINISTRY AND OUTSIDE. SOME ISSUES ARE BEING REVIEWED BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES MADE UP OF BOTH MNR STAFF AND OUTSIDE EXPERTS. DR. KAYLL IS CHAIRING A COMMITTEE, MADE UP OF MINISTRY AND FOREST INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, CHARGED WITH ESTABLISHING MORE DETAILED CRITERIA FOR FOREST STAND ALLOCATION TO ENSURE THE BEST TIMBER UTILIZATION.





DR. ROBERT ROSEHART, PRESIDENT OF LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY, IS CHAIRING ANOTHER COMMITTEE, COMPRISED OF INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND THE ACADEMIC SECTOR, WHICH WILL EXAMINE OUR FOREST RESOURCES INVENTORY. DEAN BASKERVILLE CALLED THE FRI A REASONABLE BASE AS USED IN CURRENT FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING, BUT NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN PUBLIC QUESTIONING OF ITS ACCURACY.

WE HAVE ASKED THE ROSEHART COMMITTEE TO TELL US HOW BEST TO OBTAIN A DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE MINISTRY'S INVENTORY FIGURES AND TO RECOMMEND A PROCESS FOR VERIFYING THE ACCURACY OF THE FRI ON AN ONGOING BASIS.

I WILL BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS EACH ASPECT OF THE ACTION PLAN WITH HONOURABLE MEMBERS. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT ELABORATE ON EACH ONE NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PLAN IS COMPREHENSIVE; IT WILL RESULT IN SOME SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES; IT WILL MEAN AN IMPROVEMENT IN FOREST MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND ADMINISTRATION; AND IT WILL STRENGTHEN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN HOW WE ARE MANAGING THIS IMPORTANT RESOURCE.



THROUGHOUT THIS WHOLE PROCESS OF REVIEW, WE HAVE KEPT THE PUBLIC INFORMED, AND WE HAVE KEPT OUR OWN STAFF INVOLVED. I LOOK ON IT AS A POSITIVE EXERCISE TO HELP US IN OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT.

THE BASKERVILLE REPORT IS PROBABLY THE BEST-KNOWN EXAMPLE, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE ONLY INSTANCE WHERE WE HAVE OPENED UP OUR PRACTICES TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FOREST MANAGEMENT WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATURE ABOUT A YEAR AGO, ALONG WITH THE MINISTRY'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE. AGAIN, THE REPORT WAS USEFUL NOT JUST FOR MINISTRY PURPOSES, BUT FOR INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT HOW MNR IS CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE IN THE FORESTRY FIELD.

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS OF FIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS (FMAs) SIGNED BY THE PROVINCE AND THE FOREST COMPANIES HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE PUBLIC. THE REVIEWS SHOWED THAT WE ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH THESE FMAs -- REGENERATION INCREASED BY 43 PER CENT, TENDING BY 285 PER CENT AND SITE PREPARATION BY 30 PER CENT, WHILE HARVESTING INCREASED BY ONLY 15 PER CENT, COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.





RELEASING THE FMA REVIEWS GIVES THE PUBLIC A KIND OF RUNNING COMMENTARY ON HOW WELL WE ARE DOING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SPECIFIC TRACTS OF CROWN LAND. SIXTY-THREE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LICENSED FOREST AREA IN THE PROVINCE IS COVERED BY 28 FMAs COVERING 58 PER CENT OF THE CROWN LAND FOREST AREA UNDER LICENCE. THAT FIGURE WILL RISE TO 70 PER CENT WHEN ALL THE AGREEMENTS ARE IN PLACE. I EXPECT TO RELEASE THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND SET OF FIVE-YEAR FMA REVIEWS SHORTLY.

ON ANOTHER TOPIC -- LAST SPRING THE INFESTATION OF THE SPRUCE BUDWORM AND JACK PINE BUDWORM HIT CRITICAL LEVELS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, AND THE GYPSY MOTH CONTINUED TO SPREAD IN EASTERN ONTARIO. WE DECIDED THAT THE BEST WAY TO HELP THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM AND THE NEED FOR AN AERIAL SPRAYING PROGRAM WAS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MORE THAN 20 PUBLIC MEETINGS IN SELECTED CENTRES WERE HELD LAST WINTER. THE MINISTRY ALSO CO-OPERATED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN EASTERN ONTARIO TO HELP PROVIDE AN AERIAL SPRAYING PROGRAM ON PRIVATE LAND WHERE A NUMBER OF PROPERTY-OWNERS REQUESTED IT. WE ARE HOPING THIS CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE IN 1987, WITH INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.



WE SPENT OVER \$28-MILLION SPRAYING THE BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDE BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS (BT) OVER 860,000 HECTARES OF FOREST FROM CORNWALL TO KENORA LAST SPRING. THE BUDGET WAS NEARLY FIVE TIMES LAST YEAR'S BUDGET. WE HAVE NOT ERADICATED THESE PESTS WHICH THREATEN OUR FORESTS -- WE KNOW WE CAN'T -- BUT WE HAVE CERTAINLY DONE A JOB OF SLOWING THEM DOWN AND PROTECTING SOME KEY FORESTED AREAS.

PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE ALSO USED TO GET PUBLIC INPUT ON THE ISSUE OF A RESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENCE. WE PUT A SERIES OF QUESTIONS TO RESOURCE USERS: DO YOU SUPPORT A SPORT FISHING LICENCE? HOW MUCH SHOULD IT COST? WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE ADDITIONAL MONEY SPENT?

THE VERDICT ON WHETHER TO HAVE A SPORT FISHING LICENCE WAS AN EMPHATIC YES, AND ON THE BASIS OF THAT SUPPORT FROM ANGLERS ACROSS ONTARIO, WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED A \$10 SPORT FISHING LICENCE FOR THE 1987 SEASON.

THE LICENCE IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE UP TO \$10-MILLION IN REVENUE. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO MORE THAN \$30-MILLION THE PROVINCE ALREADY SPENDS ON OUR FISHERIES, AND IT WILL ALLOW US TO ENHANCE MINISTRY PROGRAMS TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN AND REBUILD THIS RESOURCE.



WE ALSO RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON OUR COMPREHENSIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING PLANS FOR ALL BUT A FEW OF THE DISTRICTS ACROSS THE PROVINCE AS WELL AS FOR EACH OF THE GREAT LAKES. THESE PLANS WILL BE PREPARED BASED ON THE FORMAT AND THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THE PAST YEAR WHILE PREPARING PLANS FOR EIGHT KEY DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. THESE PLANS SET OUT HOW OUR FISHERIES RESOURCES WILL BE MANAGED TO THE YEAR 2000.

ANOTHER AREA I WOULD LIKE TO DEAL WITH UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF OPENNESS IS THE CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TIMBER MANAGEMENT. TIMBER MANAGEMENT, WHICH TAKES PLACE ON MORE THAN 33.6 MILLION HECTARES OF CROWN LAND CLASSED AS PRODUCTIVE FOREST, INCLUDES HARVESTING OPERATIONS, SITE PREPARATION, REGENERATION METHODS, TENDING PRACTICES, PROTECTION OF TREES FROM INSECTS AND DISEASE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROADS.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE EA WILL GIVE THE PUBLIC A CHANCE TO EXAMINE -- AND CROSS-EXAMINE -- TIMBER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AROUND THE PROVINCE.

THE PLANNING PROCESS OUTLINED IN THE EA INCLUDES NOT ONLY VARIOUS CHECKS AND BALANCES TO ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THIS RESOURCE, BUT A SYSTEM TO INCLUDE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT FOUR SEPARATE STAGES IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.





WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED FOLLOWING THIS NEW PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYSTEM WITH THE FIRST FMA SIGNED SINCE I BECAME MINISTER. THE AGREEMENT WITH GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS LTD. CONCERNING THE BLACK STURGEON FOREST, NORTH OF THUNDER BAY, WAS OUR 27TH FMA, AND HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY A NUMBER OF INTEREST GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE AREA. THERE WILL BE MORE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT BEFORE ANY DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FMA AREA IS APPROVED.

THE LAST TOPIC I WANT TO COVER IN THIS SECTION IS FLOOD CONTROL AND SHORELINE PROTECTION. UNUSUALLY HIGH WATER LEVELS IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN HAVE AFFECTED MANY SHORELINE PROPERTIES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

TO GET MORE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE BEST LONG-TERM APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT OF SHORELINE AREAS, LAST SPRING MY MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS ESTABLISHED THE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MY PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT, JAMES MCGUIGAN, MPP FOR KENT-ELGIN. AS WELL AS RECEIVING WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS, THE COMMITTEE HELD 20 PUBLIC MEETINGS TO GET SOME FIRST-HAND ADVICE AND SUBMITTED THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS IN NOVEMBER 1986.



BASED ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE MINISTRY HAS DEVELOPED A LONG-TERM PROGRAM THAT WILL INCLUDE NEW POLICY ON SHORELINE MANAGEMENT, COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, INCREASED MAPPING AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR LOW INTEREST LOANS, TECHNICAL ADVICE AND SUPPLIES OF SANDBAGS.

SINCE OUR FIRST ACTION HAS TO BE PREVENTION, WE ARE NOW DRAFTING THE NECESSARY POLICY STATEMENT UNDER THE PLANNING ACT GOVERNING SHORELINES.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ALLOCATED AN ADDITIONAL \$700,000 FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR TO EXPAND THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE PROGRAM TO SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNERS AND THE PROVISION OF SANDBAGS FOR EMERGENCY PROTECTION.

WE HAS ALSO ALLOCATED ANOTHER \$1-MILLION TO THE LOW-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM, BRINGING THE TOTAL ANNUAL LEVEL OF FUNDING TO \$4.5-MILLION.





BUT SHORELINE PROBLEMS ARE CREATED BY HIGH WATER LEVELS, AND THAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE GREAT LAKES ARE INTERNATIONAL WATERS. IF ANY LARGE SCALE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM IS UNDERTAKEN, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST BE OUR PARTNER. I HAVE WRITTEN TO THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO REQUEST FEDERAL SUPPORT AND I AM STILL AWAITING HIS ANSWER.

I HAVE ASKED MY STAFF -- IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRIES OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, AND TREASURY AND ECONOMICS -- TO REPORT BACK IN MARCH WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COST-SHARING IN LARGE-SCALE PROTECTIVE WORKS FOR VULNERABLE STRETCHES OF SHORELINE.

IN ADDITION TO THE FACETS OF THE PROGRAM I'VE JUST MENTIONED, WE ARE ALSO ENSURING THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVOLVED IN DECISIONS AFFECTING THE SHORELINE. I WILL SOON BE APPOINTING A SHORELINE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REGULARLY SOLICIT PUBLIC OPINION AND ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT.



IN A MORE PERSONAL VEIN ON THIS SUBJECT, I HAVE BEEN TAKING ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES I CAN TO SPEAK TO AS MANY GROUPS AS POSSIBLE. I HAVE BEEN ALL OVER THE PROVINCE, TALKING TO SHORELINE RESIDENTS, MARINA AND TOURIST OPERATORS, MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES, LOCAL POLITICIANS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT HIGH LAKE LEVELS.

I HAVE INSPECTED FLOOD DAMAGE ON THE SHORES OF THE GREAT LAKES, AND I HAVE BEEN OUT ON A COMMERCIAL FISHING TRAWLER ON LAKE ERIE. I HAVE TOURED FOREST OPERATIONS AND PULP AND PAPER MILLS, AND I HAVE TAKEN A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATION AND OUR FOREST FIRE-FIGHTING CREWS AT WORK.

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME. IN THE PROCESS I HAVE LEARNED THAT PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO LISTEN IF THEY ARE LISTENED TO. AND I HAVE LEARNED THAT IN MOST INSTANCES, TWO SIDES OF AN ISSUE NEEDN'T BE THAT FAR APART.

WHAT I HAVE TRIED TO IMPRESS ON GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IS THAT NATURAL RESOURCES REQUIRE THE INTEREST, THE IDEAS, AND PARTICIPATION OF A WIDE VARIETY OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS. I BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PUBLIC TO ACCEPT A DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESOURCES FROM WHICH THEY BENEFIT.



NORTHERN OUTREACH

I COULD HAVE TALKED ABOUT OUR NORTHERN INITIATIVES UNDER THE HEADING OF MY FIRST THEME OF GREATER ACCESSIBILITY OR RESPONSIVENESS TO PUBLIC CONCERNS. A LOT OF NORTHERNERS HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS THAT TOO MANY OF THE DECISIONS AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING THEM ARE MADE AND ADMINISTERED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE REMOTE FROM THE PROBLEMS OF THE NORTH.

SO, AS PART OF A GOVERNMENT-WIDE INITIATIVE, WE ARE CONCENTRATING MORE OF OUR PEOPLE RESOURCES IN THE NORTH. THIS MINISTRY IS ALREADY ONE OF THE MOST DECENTRALIZED DEPARTMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

ACROSS THE PROVINCE, WE HAVE EIGHT REGIONAL OFFICES, 47 DISTRICT OFFICES AND A WIDE RANGE OF RESEARCH, FIREFIGHTING AND OTHER WORK CENTRES IN THE FIELD.

LAST JULY, WE DECIDED TO MOVE THE FOREST RESOURCES GROUP STAFF FROM QUEEN'S PARK TO SAULT STE. MARIE, ALONG WITH THE FORESTRY STAFF WHO ARE NOW BASED AT THE ONTARIO TREE IMPROVEMENT AND FOREST BIOMASS INSTITUTE AND PEST CONTROL SECTION IN MAPLE.



THE MOVE MAKES SENSE IN MANY WAYS. FIRST OF ALL, IT WILL GIVE A BOOST TO A NORTHERN COMMUNITY WHICH HAS HAD TO MAKE SOME PAINFUL ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS IN RECENT YEARS TO RESPOND TO MARKET PRESSURES IN THE STEEL AND IRON ORE INDUSTRY.

THE MOVE, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS, WILL PULL TOGETHER ALL THE PROVINCIAL NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF INVOLVED WITH PROTECTING FORESTS FROM FIRE AND INSECT DAMAGE -- SINCE THE AVIATION AND FIRE MANAGEMENT CENTRE IS ALREADY LOCATED IN THE SOO. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW FORESTRY STAFF TO WORK EVEN MORE CLOSELY WITH INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH.

ANOTHER MAJOR NORTHERN INITIATIVE OF MNR, ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER, IS THE \$4-MILLION NORTHERN FOREST BIOLOGY CENTRE ON THE CAMPUS OF LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY IN THUNDER BAY. THE CENTRE, TO BE BUILT BY THE UNIVERSITY TO HOUSE MNR STAFF, WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS TO STUDY THE BIOLOGY OF NORTHERN BOREAL FORESTS.

LAKEHEAD ALREADY HAS A WELL-RESPECTED NATURAL RESOURCES CURRICULUM. THIS NEW CENTRE, AND THE NEW RESEARCH CHAIR IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND POLICY AT LAKEHEAD, FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, WILL ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY AS AN INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED FORESTRY CENTRE.





IN ADDITION, WE ARE CREATING TWO NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT UNITS (TDUs) AT A FIRST-YEAR COST OF \$921,000 -- ONE IN THUNDER BAY AND ONE IN NORTH BAY. TWENTY-ONE STAFF POSITIONS WILL BE CREATED AT THESE TWO CENTRES.

THESE UNITS WILL PUT MORE OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART RESEARCH BEING DEVELOPED BY OUR SCIENTISTS TO PRACTICAL USE IN FOREST MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES. WE HAVE TWO OTHER TDUs IN THE PROVINCE, IN TIMMINS AND BROCKVILLE.

WE ARE ALSO BUILDING A NEW \$6-MILLION FISH CULTURE STATION AT TARENTORUS, NORTH OF THE SOO. ONCE COMPLETED, IT WILL BE THE HIGHEST PRODUCTION AND MOST MODERN HATCHERY IN THE PROVINCE AND PROMISES TO HELP REVITALIZE THE TROUT STOCK IN LAKE SUPERIOR.

IN OUR TENDING NORTH PROGRAM, WE HAVE SPENT \$3-MILLION AND CREATED AN ESTIMATED 5,700 WEEKS OF EXTRA EMPLOYMENT ACROSS NORTHERN ONTARIO IN 1986-87. WE HAVE CALLED TENDING NORTH AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS BECAUSE IT INVOLVES IMPROVING YOUNG TREE PLANTATIONS AND GATHERING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON EXISTING FOREST STANDS. BUT IT IS ALSO AN INVESTMENT IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF OUR NORTHERN COMMUNITIES -- AN INVESTMENT WELL WORTH MAKING.



FAIRNESS

I HAVE PUT THE ISSUE OF FISHING RIGHTS OF ONTARIO'S NATIVE PEOPLE UNDER THE HEADING OF FAIRNESS BECAUSE IT IS A PROBLEM WHICH GOES BEYOND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

IT IS A COMPLICATED AND SENSITIVE ISSUE WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAS CAUSED LONG-RUNNING DISPUTES BETWEEN THE PROVINCIAL REGULATORY BODY FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT -- THE NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTRY -- AND SOME INDIAN BANDS.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES DO HAVE SPECIAL STATUS UNDER THE TREATIES THEIR ANCESTORS SIGNED WITH THE CROWN AND UNDER THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO HUNTING AND FISHING FOR FOOD.

THE DISAGREEMENT ARISES OVER HOW FAR SPECIAL STATUS GOES. LAST FEBRUARY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS GOVERNMENT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS ON THE TRIPARTITE COUNCIL AGREED TO NEGOTIATE REGIONAL INDIAN FISHING AGREEMENTS.

THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BY THIS MINISTRY. I CAN REPORT THAT THEY ARE CONTINUING IN GOOD FAITH WITH SEVERAL NATIVE GROUPS INVOLVED IN SEPARATE TALKS.



OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR A CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH TO MANAGING OUR FISHERIES. OTHER RESOURCE USERS ALSO HAVE A STAKE IN HOW MUCH OF THIS RESOURCE IS COMMITTED TO EXCLUSIVE USE BY INDIAN PEOPLE. MINDFUL OF THAT, MY MINISTRY HAS ESTABLISHED A TEAM OF REGIONAL AND DISTRICT STAFF TO CONSULT WITH ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED GROUPS AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT.

I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE REGIONAL AGREEMENTS WILL SUCCEED WHERE THE PREVIOUS EFFORTS FAILED. THIS GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO BRINGING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FRUITION TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL AFFECTED GROUPS. WE WANT TO BE FAIR TO EVERYONE.

STILL WITHIN THE GENERAL THEME OF FAIRNESS, WE ALSO WANT TO DEAL FAIRLY WITH BOTH COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND SPORTS FISHERMEN IN THIS PROVINCE. WE ARE WORKING HARD TO BUILD UP A MORE CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT BETWEEN THOSE TWO USER GROUPS AND BETWEEN COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND THE MINISTRY.





TO HELP THAT ALONG, EARLIER THIS YEAR WE ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A FISHERIES ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AND TO ENSURE THAT VOICES REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS AFFECTED BY FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ARE HEARD AT QUEEN'S PARK.

AS WELL, I HAVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 49 SECTIONS OF THE GAME AND FISH ACT. THESE AMENDMENTS RECEIVED FIRST READING IN THE HOUSE LAST MONTH AND WILL BRING FISHING AND HUNTING PROCEDURES UP TO DATE. AMONG THE CHANGES AFFECTING FISHING ARE AMENDMENTS THAT WILL ALLOW THE EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE AND STIFFER PENALTIES FOR COMMERCIAL VIOLATIONS OF THE ACT.

TO MOVE INTO ANOTHER RESOURCE AREA, I WAS CONCERNED TO LEARN LAST YEAR THAT SOME OF THE WORKERS ENGAGED IN TREE-PLANTING FOR THE MINISTRY UNDER CONTRACT TO PRIVATE FIRMS WEREN'T GETTING PAID. WHEN THE PROBLEM WAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION, ACTION WAS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY.



IN CASES WHERE THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR WAS NOT ABLE TO ENFORCE PAYMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT, MNR STEPPED IN TO PAY THE WORKERS DIRECTLY. MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE TREE CONTRACTING SYSTEM IN FUTURE. IN 1986, MANDATORY REGIONAL SEMINARS WERE REQUIRED FOR CONTRACTORS TO MAKE THEM FULLY AWARE OF PERTINENT LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COMMENT, UNDER THE HEADING OF FAIRNESS, ABOUT SOMETHING THIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS TO BE MOST UNFAIR. THAT IS THE RECENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPOSE A 15 PER CENT EXPORT TAX ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER GOING TO THE U.S.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO THIS FROM THE BEGINNING AND THE PREMIER MADE ONTARIO'S VIEWS KNOWN AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS. WE THINK THE U.S. DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED IN THE U.S. COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. OUR STAND HAD THE SUPPORT OF MOST OF THE CANADIAN LUMBER INDUSTRY, AND THE LUMBER AND SAWMILL WORKERS' UNION.

SO ONTARIO IS HURT BY A SITUATION THAT IS THRUST UPON IT. AND WE BELIEVE THAT THIS FEDERAL AGREEMENT, GIVING IN, AS IT DOES, TO U.S. PROTECTIONISM, WILL ENCOURAGE SIMILAR U.S. MOVES IN THE FUTURE.



THERE IS ANOTHER CAUSE FOR CONCERN, TOO. THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, OR PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL IT CAPITULATION, SUGGEST THAT THE PROVINCES MAY BE LIMITED WHEN IT COMES TO RETRAINING OR JOB CREATION AS A DAMAGE-CONTROL EFFORT. FUNDING OF SUCH PROGRAMS MUST BE HANDLED VERY CAREFULLY, OTHERWISE CANADA MAY BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER RETALIATORY MEASURES FROM THE U.S. THAT IS A POSSIBILITY.

ONTARIO WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCES DEALING WITH THE COLLECTION OF THE EXPORT TAX AND CONVERSION OF THAT INTO REPLACEMENT MEASURES TO BE HANDLED BY THE PROVINCES.

ONTARIO, I CAN TELL YOU, WANTS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS MATTER -- PERHAPS LEAVING THE EXPORT TAX IN PLACE FOR A YEAR TO DETERMINE ACTUAL EXPORT LEVELS AND MILL-PROVINCE ORIGINS.

ONTARIO -- AND THIS IS NOT UNANIMOUS AMONG OTHER PROVINCES -- ALSO WANTS FOREST INDUSTRY OFFICIALS AND LABOR TO BE A PART OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE CONSIDERING REPLACEMENT MEASURES FOR THE EXPORT TAX AND EXACTLY WHO SHOULD BE TAXED.



WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THAT REPRESENTATION WHEN THE FOREST MINISTERS MEET IN SEVERAL DAYS.

MY MINISTRY WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO REDUCE ANY JOB LOSS AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE THIS AGREEMENT MAY CAUSE. AND WE WILL WORK WITH THE OTHER MINISTRIES AND OTHER PROVINCES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE THE HARM THIS WILL DO TO CANADA.

### RESPONSIVENESS

I HAVE TALKED A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED AND GIVING PEOPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN PLANNING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. NOW LET ME SPEAK A LITTLE ABOUT LISTENING AND RESPONDING WHEN THERE IS AN ISSUE OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

OUR EFFORT TO BUILD CLOSER CONNECTIONS WITH NORTHERN COMMUNITIES IS AN EXAMPLE OF RESPONDING TO A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC NEED. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER ISSUES. LET ME MENTION THREE.





TAKE THE CONTRACTING OUT OF PROVINCIAL PARKS. WE ASKED THE PUBLIC, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO USE THE WONDERFUL PARKS SYSTEMS THAT WE HAVE HERE IN ONTARIO, WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF HAVING PRIVATE OPERATORS RUN THE PARKS.

THE PROVINCIAL PARKS COUNCIL HELD A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS TO GET FEEDBACK AND SUBMITTED A REPORT TO MY OFFICE. I ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE MINISTRY CONDUCT AN INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE PRACTICE. BASED ON THESE REPORTS, I MADE THE DECISION TO END THE CONTRACTING OUT OF WHOLE PARKS.

EXISTING LEASES WILL BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE AND NO NEW ONES WILL BE SIGNED. WE WILL CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO CONTRACT OUT SOME SPECIFIC SERVICES AT OUR PARKS, SUCH AS GARBAGE COLLECTION, TO PRIVATE FIRMS.

ANOTHER ISSUE WHICH INVOLVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROVINCIAL PARKS COUNCIL, AFTER PUBLIC CONSULTATION, CONCERNED COTTAGE LEASEHOLDERS IN ALGONQUIN AND RONDEAU PROVINCIAL PARKS. IN AUGUST, I ANNOUNCED THAT THESE COTTAGERS WOULD BE ABLE TO EXTEND THEIR LEASES TO THE YEAR 2017 IF THEY COMPLIED WITH A NEW SET OF CONDITIONS.



THE GOVERNMENT WILL RETAIN ITS LONG-TERM GOAL OF PHASING OUT ALL EXISTING LEASES IN THE TWO PARKS. IN THE SHORT-TERM, THE MINISTRY WILL HAVE FIRST REFUSAL ON ANY LEASE TRANSFER AND WILL HAVE TO APPROVE ANY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, LANDSCAPING OR EARTH REMOVAL AT COTTAGE SITES. LEASEHOLD RENTS WILL BE BASED ON FAIR MARKET VALUE. ALL THE CURRENT COTTAGE LEASES WILL EXPIRE IN 1996 OR EARLIER IF THE LEASEHOLDER DECLINES TO ENTER INTO AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT UNDER THE NEW CONDITIONS.

THE THIRD ISSUE I WILL DISCUSS UNDER THE THEME OF RESPONSIVENESS IS PARTY MOOSE HUNTING. THERE WAS A DEMAND FROM HUNTERS FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF PARTY HUNTING, AND WE MADE A CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF THE MOOSE POPULATION BEFORE RESPONDING. WE CHOSE TO ALLOW PARTY HUNTING FOR MOOSE CALVES ONLY.

IT WAS IN THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, BUT OF THE SPORTSMEN THEMSELVES TO ENSURE THAT BRINGING BACK PARTY HUNTING FOR CALVES WOULD NOT DEplete THE MOOSE HERD TO THE EXTENT THAT ITS FUTURE WOULD BE ENDANGERED. NATURALLY, MINISTRY WILDLIFE SPECIALISTS WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY.



IN TALKING ABOUT THESE FOUR GENERAL THEMES OF OPENNESS, NORTHERN OUTREACH, FAIRNESS, AND RESPONSIVENESS, I DO NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THERE ISN'T MUCH GOING ON IN OTHER AREAS OF THE MINISTRY. QUITE THE CONTRARY. BUT RATHER THAN GIVE YOU A CATALOGUE OF EVERY PROGRAM GROUP WITHIN THE MINISTRY, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO FOCUS ON A FEW INITIATIVES IN LIGHT OF THESE IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES.

FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OTHER PROGRAM AREAS.

I KNOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR AT LEAST A BRIEF REPORT ON OUR FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM. 1985 WAS UNUSUALLY QUIET FOR FOREST FIRES. IN 1986, WE HAD A BELOW-AVERAGE FIRE SEASON. THERE WERE 1,088 FIRES REPORTED AND 145,560 HECTARES CONSUMED. OF THESE, IN THE EXTENSIVELY-PROTECTED AREA IN THE FAR NORTH, 48 FIRES WERE OBSERVED ONLY BURNING A TOTAL OF 77,360 HECTARES. THE 10-YEAR AVERAGE IS 1,774 FIRES AND 234,000 HECTARES BURNED.

LAKES WERE FREE OF ICE ABOUT TWO WEEKS EARLIER THAN USUAL WHICH NECESSITATED BRINGING FIRE CREWS, WATER BOMBERS AND INITIAL ATTACK HELICOPTERS ON AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.





THERE WERE TWO MAJOR FIRES, BOTH OF THEM IN MAY: TERRACE BAY 7 AND RED LAKE 7.

THE TERRACE BAY FIRE BURNED 200 HECTARES ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE TOWN OF TERRACE BAY, THREATENING A HOUSING SUBDIVISION. TO PROTECT THE HOMES, WE CONSTRUCTED FIRE CONTROL LINES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE BACK YARDS OF PROPERTIES AND MOUNTED AN INTENSIVE ATTACK WITH WATER BOMBERS. SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE EVACUATED FOR SIX HOURS, BUT NO BUILDINGS WERE LOST.

THE OTHER FIRE STARTED 18 KILOMETRES NORTHWEST OF RED LAKE, AND WAS BOTH DIFFICULT AND COSTLY TO BRING UNDER CONTROL. THERE WERE MAJOR RUNS ON MAY 28, 29 AND 30 AND JUNE 3. IT WAS FINALLY DECLARED UNDER CONTROL JUNE 12 AT 61,200 HECTARES, WITH A PERIMETER IN EXCESS OF 200 KILOMETRES.

EMERGENCY AREA ORDERS WERE ISSUED FOR BOTH THESE SITUATIONS. I ALSO DECLARED THE NORTHERN PART OF ONTARIO A RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE FOR THREE WEEKS.



DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE WERE ALSO POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FIRES IN THE HEARST, KAPUSKASING, COCHRANE AND MOOSONEE DISTRICTS, BUT THEY WERE CONTROLLED BEFORE THEY REACHED MAJOR PROPORTIONS. BY MID-JUNE AND FOR THE BALANCE OF THE FIRE SEASON, THERE WAS AN AVERAGE OF FOUR TO 15 FIRES PER DAY, WITH NO MAJOR FIRES DEVELOPING. STAFF ALSO CONDUCTED A TOTAL OF 58 PRESCRIBED FIRES, PREPARING 14,323 HECTARES OF HARVESTED AREA FOR REGENERATION.

WHEN WE COULD, WE LOANED EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER TO OTHER PROVINCES WHEN THEY NEEDED HELP; WE ALSO BENEFITED FROM ON-LOAN EQUIPMENT AND STAFF FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS WHEN OUR FORCES WERE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT.

OUR FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES ARE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE, AS WE MODERNIZE AND UPGRADE OUR EQUIPMENT. OUR AIRCRAFT FLEET IS BEING GRADUALLY MODERNIZED -- LAST FALL WE TOOK POSSESSION OF TWO CANADAIR CL-215 WATER BOMBERS, AND BY SPRING WILL HAVE OBTAINED TWO MORE, UNDER A FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLY AGREEMENT.



EVENTUALLY WE WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF SEVEN CL-215s UNDER THE FEDERAL AGREEMENT, THREE OWNED OUTRIGHT BY MNR AND FOUR LEASED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO HAVE TWO OTHERS WHICH WERE PURCHASED A FEW YEARS AGO, GIVING US A FLEET OF NINE OF THESE AIRCRAFT BY 1988.

WE ARE ALSO USING STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTER PROGRAMS TO HELP FIRE PERSONNEL IN MAKING CRUCIAL DECISIONS ABOUT FIRE PREDICTION AND CONTROL. LAST SUMMER, THE PROVINCIAL AVIATION AND FIRE MANAGEMENT CENTRE IN SAULT STE. MARIE AND THE FIVE REGIONAL CENTRES WERE EQUIPPED WITH NEW COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL LINK THEM IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

WE ARE HARNESSING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE SOME EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS. WE ARE DOING THE SAME IN OTHER AREAS -- I MENTIONED EARLIER OUR COMMITMENT TO FORESTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE FOREST BIOLOGY CENTRE IN THUNDER BAY AND OUR TWO NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT UNITS.



I SHOULD ALSO MENTION OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ONTARIO CENTRE FOR REMOTE SENSING (OCRS) AND OUR COMPUTERIZED MAPPING PROGRAM. BOTH WERE GIVEN SPECIAL MENTION IN THE THRONE SPEECH LAST APRIL. REMOTE SENSING INVOLVES THE USE OF SENSORS ON SATELLITES OR AIRCRAFT TO PRODUCE IMAGES OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE BY RECORDING ENERGY COMING FROM THE EARTH. OCRS IS WORKING IN CO-OPERATION WITH INDUSTRY TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP ITS TECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.

IN A RELATED FIELD, WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A TWO-YEAR PROJECT TO TEST THE APPLICATION OF COMPUTERIZATION TO IMPROVE THE PROVINCIAL MAPPING SYSTEM. THE PROJECT'S ANNUAL COST IS \$4.2-MILLION. WE ARE GATHERING THE LAND-RELATED INFORMATION IN DIGITAL FORM FOR 600 COMPUTERIZED BASIC MAPS. THE PRODUCTION OF THE MAPS IS BEING CONTRACTED OUT TO THE ONTARIO MAPPING INDUSTRY. A MARKET ANALYSIS IS ALSO PART OF THE PROJECT.

OUR REMOTE SENSING AND COMPUTERIZED MAPPING PROGRAMS ARE ON THE LEADING-EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY. TO MAINTAIN ONTARIO'S COMPETITIVENESS IN A HIGH-TECH GLOBAL ECONOMY, THAT IS AN EDGE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE. THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO ONTARIO ARE SIGNIFICANT, IN TERMS OF MARKETS IN CANADA, IN THE U.S. AND OVERSEAS.





THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN AGGREGATES POLICY. THE MINISTRY RELEASED THE MINERAL AGGREGATE RESOURCE PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT, KNOWN AS MARPP, LAST YEAR, THE FIRST SUCH POLICY TO BE RELEASED UNDER THE PLANNING ACT. THROUGH INCORPORATION INTO MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL PLANS AND ZONING BYLAWS, THIS POLICY PROTECTS EXISTING PITS AND QUARRIES AND SELECTED MINERAL AGGREGATE RESOURCES FROM INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES. IT ALSO PROVIDES GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL SITES.

WE ARE DRAFTING A NEW AGGREGATES ACT WHICH WILL REPLACE THE PITS AND QUARRIES ACT AND INCORPORATE THE QUARRY PERMIT PART OF THE MINING ACT AND THE BEACH PROTECTION ACT.

IN EARLY 1986, WE DOUBLED THE SECURITY FEES THAT PRODUCERS MUST PAY WHEN MINING A SITE IN ORDER TO REFLECT MORE ADEQUATELY THE COSTS OF REHABILITATING THE LAND. THE FEES ARE RETURNED WHEN REHABILITATION IS COMPLETED.

IN ADDITION TO AN AGGREGATES BILL, WE ARE WORKING ON LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THE MINISTRY'S ROLE IN PUBLIC LANDS.



THE PROVINCE NOW TAKES IN ANNUAL REVENUES OF MORE THAN \$100-MILLION THROUGH THE SALE AND LEASE OF CROWN LAND AND WATER RESOURCES. WE ARE REVIEWING ALL THESE REVENUE SOURCES. INCLUDED IN THIS REVIEW IS THE REVIVAL OF OUR CROWN COTTAGE LOTS PROGRAM.

THERE ARE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO HAVING COTTAGERS ON CROWN LAND IN CERTAIN AREAS. THESE PEOPLE SPEND MONEY ON EVERYTHING FROM UPKEEP TO GROCERIES. THE ECONOMIC SPINOFFS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL AREA, PARTICULARLY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO.

AN IMPROVED COTTAGING PROGRAM IS JUST ONE OF THE INITIATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION IN A PROGRAM TO USE CROWN LAND AS A DEVELOPMENT TOOL. WE INTEND TO USE THIS LAND RESOURCE TO EXPAND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NORTH. THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL IN THE AREAS OF TOURISM AND EXPANSION OF THE PEAT INDUSTRY ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES.

THESE ARE THE KINDS OF INITIATIVES THAT WE HOPE ARE BEING DISCUSSED BY THE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.



WHILE WE ARE ON THE TOPIC OF OUR LAND RESOURCES, I HAVEN'T SAID ENOUGH ABOUT OUR PARKS SYSTEM, EXCEPT IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS OVER CONTRACTING OUT PARK SERVICES. DURING 1986, OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS ATTRACTED CLOSE TO 7.5-MILLION VISITORS, WITH A TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE PROVINCE OF MORE THAN \$500-MILLION.

OUR PARKS ARE IRREPLACEABLE. THEY DO MORE THAN GENERATE TOURISM DOLLARS. THEY ALSO PROVIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT, RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND OFFER A MEANS OF PROTECTING OUR TREMENDOUS NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

AND ONTARIO IS PREPARED TO TAKE DRAMATIC STEPS TO HIGHLIGHT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE NATURAL AREAS. JUST RECENTLY, ONTARIO DONATED 7,000 HECTARES OF LAND AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WORTH \$8.5-MILLION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HELP ESTABLISH THE BRUCE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK.

IN DOING SO, ONTARIO WAS RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE WIDER NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THIS AREA FOR ALL CANADIANS TO ENJOY.



IN OUR OWN PROVINCIAL PARK SYSTEM, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ALL OUR PARKS. THESE PLANS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM POLICY DIRECTION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF EACH PARK'S RESOURCES.

SIXTY-TWO PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO DATE, AND INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE BEING COMPLETED FOR THE REST. PUBLIC CONSULTATION IS ONE OF THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS -- THROUGH OPEN HOUSES, PUBLIC MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND QUESTIONNAIRES.

ONE OF THE MANY VALUES OF OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS IS THAT THEY GIVE ONTARIANS AN UNEQUALLED OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW NATURE AND WILDLIFE.

OUR WILDLIFE PROGRAMS ARE INCREDIBLY VARIED. THEY RANGE FROM RESEARCH ON POLAR BEAR DISTRIBUTION TO WETLAND PRESERVATION.

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE ALSO UNDERTAKEN SEVERAL WILDLIFE EXCHANGES AND TRANSFERS WITH OUR AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. IN RECENT YEARS, WE TRADED MOOSE TO MICHIGAN, OTTERS TO MISSOURI AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE TO NEW YORK STATE IN RETURN FOR WILD TURKEYS.





IN WETLAND MANAGEMENT, WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A REVIEW PROCESS. THE GUIDELINES WHICH WERE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN 1984 ARE BEING EXAMINED BY MY MINISTRY, AND THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS. A NEW DRAFT PROVINCIAL POLICY PROPOSED UNDER THE PLANNING ACT WILL BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW NEXT YEAR.

IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT BEEN IDLE. IN SEPTEMBER, WE SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH TWO ORGANIZATIONS, DUCKS UNLIMITED AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA, WHICH WILL PROVIDE UP TO \$1-MILLION ANNUALLY FOR SECURING VALUABLE WETLAND HABITAT.

MY MINISTRY WILL PROVIDE \$250,000 A YEAR TO SECURE WETLANDS, CONCENTRATING ON AREAS IDENTIFIED AS PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT; DUCKS UNLIMITED WILL MATCH THAT AMOUNT, AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA WILL MATCH THE COMBINED CONTRIBUTION OF MNR AND DUCKS UNLIMITED. THIS PROGRAM IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT CO-OPERATIVE VENTURE.



RESEARCH IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WILDLIFE PROGRAMS. THE WORK OF OUR RABIES RESEARCH UNIT AT MAPLE IS PROBABLY OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS IN URBAN CONSTITUENCIES, SINCE THE PROBLEM OF RABID ANIMALS IN CITY ENVIRONMENTS HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

LAST YEAR, MNR BEGAN TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE RABIES CONTROL STRATEGY FOR URBAN AREAS, INCLUDING THE TRAPPING, VACCINATING AND TAGGING OF SKUNKS AND RACCOONS.

IN SEPTEMBER, WE CONTINUED TESTING AN IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR WILD FOXES WITH AN AERIAL DROP OF VACCINE SATURATED BAIT OVER A TRIAL AREA IN RURAL SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO. THE NEW BAITS ARE MORE POWERFUL AND LONGER-LASTING THAN THOSE USED LAST YEAR.

MINISTRY RESEARCHERS ARE ALSO DEVELOPING BETTER WAYS TO PREDICT POTENTIAL AREAS OF RABIES OUTBREAKS IN THE PROVINCE THROUGH COMPILING AND ANALYZING RABIES DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS.

WHILE I AM TALKING ABOUT WILDLIFE, I SHOULD ALSO MENTION OUR COMMUNITY WILDLIFE INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (CWIP), WHICH HAS REALLY TAKEN OFF SINCE IT WAS INTRODUCED IN JUNE OF 1985.



THE PROGRAM ENCOURAGES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS. VOLUNTEERS SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS. ONCE A PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, MNR WILL SUPPLY THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE TO CARRY IT OUT, AS WELL AS PROVIDE FUNDING FOR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.

AN ESTIMATED 200 CWIP PROJECTS -- INVOLVING MORE THAN 7,000 PEOPLE AND OVER 57,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS -- WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR BEGUN BY THE END OF 1986. CWIP IS BASED ON THE SAME PRINCIPLES AS ITS SISTER PROGRAM, THE COMMUNITY FISHERIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (CFIP), WHICH BEGAN IN 1982 WITH 24 PROJECTS.

BY 1985-86, CFIP HAD EXPANDED DRAMATICALLY TO 130 PROJECTS, INCLUDING FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENT, TRANSFERS OF FISH TO NEW HABITAT, TROUT AND SALMON CULTURE, AND RAISING WALLEYE TO FINGERLING SIZE.

CFIP IS A SOLID SUCCESS AND A GLOWING EXAMPLE OF THE VALUE OF ASKING THE PUBLIC TO PITCH IN AND HELP WITH RESOURCE PROJECTS. MEMBERS OF SPORTS AND NATURE CLUBS ACROSS THE PROVINCE HAVE PROVEN THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO GET THEIR FEET WET AND THEIR HANDS DIRTY TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THEY FEEL IS WORTH DOING.



WITH THE INFUSION OF FUNDS FROM THE NEW RESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENCE IN 1987, WE WILL HAVE MORE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CFIP. IT WILL GET EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER.

WE INTRODUCED OUR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS THREE YEARS AGO, WITH A FLEXIBLE QUOTA SYSTEM DESIGNED TO REFLECT THE CHANGING FISH POPULATIONS FROM YEAR TO YEAR. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING ONTARIO'S COMMERCIAL FISHERIES. AND WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS OF MODERNIZATION TO DATE.

CHANGES ARE ALSO OCCURRING IN THE MINISTRY'S SISTER ORGANIZATION -- THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES OF ONTARIO. ONTARIO'S 38 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES -- THIS YEAR CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT -- ARE THE LEAD AGENCIES IN FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT IN THIS PROVINCE.

I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA. FIRST -- A DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT ON FLOOD PLAIN PLANNING WAS JOINTLY RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER BY MYSELF AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS MINISTER BERNARD GRANDMAITRE.





IT GIVES GREATER CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS AND PROVIDES MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DECISION-MAKING.

WE ARE ASKING FOR A RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT STATEMENT UNDER THE PLANNING ACT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

SECOND -- I HAVE ESTABLISHED AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE, AT THE ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL, TO REVIEW THE ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES. THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM AND RECREATION AND TREASURY AND ECONOMICS WILL PARTICIPATE.

THE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING BOTH THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES AND THE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE SAID IT'S TIME FOR REFORM. I SUPPORT THAT. WE ARE LIVING IN A FISCAL AND SOCIAL CLIMATE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE IN WHICH THE AUTHORITIES WERE ORIGINALLY CREATED.



THE AUTHORITIES CAN LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE ON A HISTORY PACKED WITH ACHIEVEMENTS IN FLOOD CONTROL, WETLANDS PROTECTION, EROSION CONTROL, URBAN DRAINAGE, CONSERVATION EDUCATION, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND RECREATION.

THIS REVIEW WILL HELP US DECIDE HOW THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD APPROACH THE FUTURE.

WHEN THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HAS PRODUCED A REPORT, IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR, WE WILL CONTINUE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS BY ASKING FOR INPUT AND ADVICE FROM THE AUTHORITIES AND FROM MUNICIPALITIES ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

IN CONCLUSION, THERE ARE MANY OTHER PROGRAMS I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT. BUT IN THE INTERESTS OF KEEPING OPENING STATEMENTS RELATIVELY BRIEF, I AM GOING TO RESTRAIN MYSELF. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO ADD A FEW COMMENTS TO WRAP UP.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THIS PROVINCE. WE ARE TRYING TO TACKLE THEM NOT JUST HEAD-ON, BUT FACE-TO-FACE.



WHEREVER POSSIBLE, MY STAFF AND I ARE MEETING PEOPLE IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITIES AND AT QUEEN'S PARK TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING. WE ARE NOT LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDER FOR PUBLIC REACTION -- WE ARE GOING OUT TO GET IT.

I SHOULD SAY BEFORE CLOSING HOW IMPRESSED I AM BY THE QUALITY OF STAFF IN MY MINISTRY. THEY ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO.

IT IS A PRINCIPLE WHICH I BELIEVE IN AND ONE WHICH I HAVE ENDEAVORED TO PURSUE VIGOROUSLY, WITH THE HELP OF MINISTRY STAFF.

THIS MINISTRY IS LARGELY A FIELD MINISTRY: OUR PEOPLE ARE ON THE BOATS WITH THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN, IN THE FORESTS WITH THE LUMBERMEN, IN THE WETLANDS WITH THE WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS. OUR PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING BUGS AND DISEASE, FIRE AND FLOODS. THEY ARE ENFORCING CONSERVATION LAWS, SUPERVISING PARKS AND MAKING THINGS GROW.

I AM PROUD OF WHAT WE ARE DOING. OF COURSE, THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. THERE ALWAYS IS. BUT I KNOW WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.







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